

Remarks

Claims 1, 3-20 are pending, and claims 1, 3-6 and 17-20 stand rejected while claims 7-16 are allowed. Applicants assert that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance as set forth more fully below.

102 Rejections

Claims 1, 3-5, and 17-19 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Cullen (US Pat 304,618). The action states that Cullen teaches all of the elements. In particular for claim 1, the action relates the top portion of block D as the driving end, the flat spring E as the extension portion extending from the driving end (E extending from block D) and then relates the corner of block D as the nesting portion where the shoulder of a hook upon which the corner of block D sits serves as the split portion of a support device.

Applicants assert that the Examiner has made an improper comparison of Cullen to the recitations of the claims to the present invention. The driving end is said to be the top of block D but the extension portion that extends from the driving end as stated in claim 1 is said to be the flat spring E. However, flat spring E extends from the bottom of block D. Therefore, in order for flat spring E to extend from the driving end, then the entire block D (including all corners) must be considered the driving end. If the entire block D is the driving end, then block D cannot also serve as the nesting portion that extends from the driving end, which is clearly set forth as a separate element from the driving end in claim 1. On the other hand, if the corner of D is the nesting portion extending from the driving end and only the top surface of block D is the driving end, then flat spring E fails to extend from the driving end as recited in claim 1.

Either way, Cullen fails to show both an extension portion extending from the driving end and a nesting portion extending from the driving end and thereby fails to disclose all of the elements of claim 1. The same rationale applies to claim 17 as well, with regards to the receiving means, extension means extending from the receiving means, and nesting means extending from the receiving means. Accordingly, claims 1 and 17 are allowable over Cullen. Dependent claims 1, 3-16, and 18-20 depend from allowable base claims and are also allowable for at least the same reasons.

103 Rejections

Claims 6 and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cullen in view of Davis (US Pat 1,313,795). However, as noted above, dependent claims including claims 6 and 20 depend from allowable base claims and are also allowable for at least the same reasons.

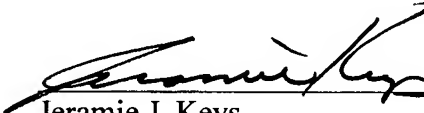
Conclusion

Applicants assert that the application including claims 1, 3-20 is in condition for allowance after final as discussed above. Applicants request reconsideration after final in view of the remarks above and further request that a Notice of Allowability be provided. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

No fees are believed due. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Respectfully submitted,

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